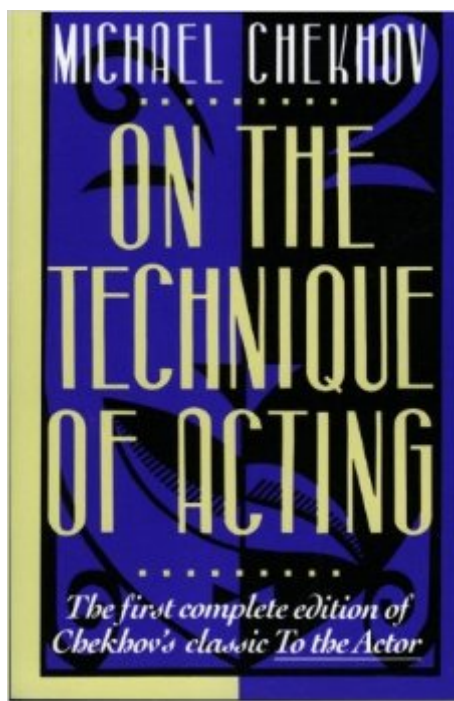


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# On The Technique Of Acting



## Synopsis

The most authoritative, authentic text of a classic guide to acting. In the four decades since its first publication, Michael Chekhov's *To the Actor* has become a standard text for students of the theater. But *To the Actor* is a shortened, heavily modified version of the great director/actor/teacher's original manuscript, and *On the Technique of Acting* is the first and only book ever to incorporate the complete text of that brilliant manuscript. Scholars and teachers of Chekhov's technique have hailed *On the Technique of Acting* as the clearest, most accurate presentation of the principles he taught Yul Brynner, Gregory Peck, Marilyn Monroe, Anthony Quinn, Beatrice Straight, and Mala Powers, among others. This new, definitive edition of Chekhov's masterful work clarifies the principles outlined in *To the Actor* concerning the pivotal role of the imagination in actors' understanding of themselves and the roles they play. *On the Technique of Acting* also expands on Chekhov's previously published work with many unique features, including: Thirty additional exercises; A chapter devoted to screen acting; More thorough explanations of the Psychological Gesture, inner tempo vs. outer tempo, and other key concepts of Chekhov's approach. For actors, directors, and anyone interested in the theater, *On the Technique of Acting* is an essential handbook.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It would be interesting to read this book alongside Mamet's "True and False." Chekhov's passion for creation and exploration through the imagination, set against Mamet's scorn of invention on the part of the actor. Mamet dismisses the idea that character exists and that an actor can "become" the character. Chekhov meditated in order to try and commune with the spirit of the character. Two very

different approaches. In spite of the practical application of Chekov's ideas, there is a childlike hunger here for the imaginative and mysterious that I feel is critical for any artist. We can appreciate that Chekov defied Stanislavski in search of something of his own, and here is perhaps the most interesting point: Chekov's method was deeply personal. He created his own approaches, and took bold risks in doing so. I most enjoyed the descriptions that his book has of how Chekov would create his own characters. That any artist could throw themselves into their work with such interest and abandon is thrilling.

Again my mantra about acting books remains . . . Reading an acting book must be taken inside the context of personal experience of either production or an acting class. I value Chekov for the simple reason that, although he often comes across as nebulous and abstract, he stresses the fantastic and imaginative elements of acting. Eschewing working from the emotional inside out Chekov, a veteran of the Moscow Art Theatre, stresses finding the character through imaginative exercises that first engage the external elements of the actor's instrument namely in the creation of fantasy atmospheres and communion with the audience. Building upon Jung's theories of the Universal Archetype, I find Chekov's bit about the psychological gesture and "living statues" most helpful in teaching, acting and directing. In a professional world where gut wrenching, self absorbed displays of therapy induced emotion passes for true acting, I find Chekov's teachings most helpful in inspiring the true reasons many find themselves drawn to the stage: the wonder and excitement of telling an imaginative story.

This book is a must for all actors film or stage. It helps one to evaluate your method of acting and helps one to learn using easy step by step methods of each exercise.

A must read and reread and DO! For all actors, teachers and directors. This 1991 published book contains the final additions to Michael Chekhov's amazing body-mind-spirit approach to actor/human development. Easier to understand and apply than *To The Actor* and it has *The Chart For Inspired Acting* that provides a concept the whole approach. This was drawn for Mala Powers who was later, the executrix of his estate and a noted speaker/master teacher. She includes special tips on film techniques that he gave her in private coaching.

I Hear great things about Chekov and His performance as an actor. And can tell you that this is all true after reading this book...His concerns on truth, concentration and attention are extremely

necessary for an actor to read about and learn to distinguish between each one. His comments on criticism are spot on. And Much of this understanding I have come to myself through another approach, but anyone that attends to truth knows that we can all see it, it is no ones property. There is so much to discover in this book and it will give you the fundamentals that you need. As an actor do not disregard fundamentals as it may be the only thing you need to learn from anyone. I know it has been that way for me. To be a great actor you have to study on your own as well. Michael Chekhov has Just added so much value and appreciation to my work, and alone knowing that we relate is enough to spark my passion for the craft. I have read other books and most of them serve as methods, I however know that methods have their limits. Creativity does not, and a strong emphasis on truth and true creativity without involving the intellectual part of your brain in the moment of acting will allow you to create without the constraints of realism which sometimes is not how life ought to be. To create the right kind of character for each given situation. Right kind does not imply a sense of strictness. Anyway enjoy the book and have fun. Sincerely Sky Watersend

This is a great book to help the actor understand the connection between his body and his emotions to feed the characters that he plays. All things an actor needs to know. I think this book is great for new actors but definitely great for an actor who is studying so the teachings can be applied as you read the book.

Insightful and refreshing. Though written ladt century, it is refreshing and modern. Many exercises to keep you busy and developing new capacities.

As far as I'm concerned, it's the ultimate of where a lot of this started.

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